

In Memory of
U.S. Army Private First Class

Harry Dixen Andersen

Centerville, South Dakota
Lincoln County

November 19, 1927 – September 6, 1951

Missing in Action, Presumed Dead in North Korea



Harry Dixen Andersen was born on November 19, 1927, at Centerville, South Dakota, to Henry and Cecelia Marie (Smith) Andersen. He had three brothers and three sisters. He graduated from Centerville High School in 1945. Harry was known to be “active in athletics, music, and other extracurricular activities.” Before he entered the service, Harry farmed with his father. Harry’s brother, Vernon, remarked that Harry “must have been a joy to his parents because he didn’t get into trouble, got along easily with others, and he didn’t mind being alone.” Harry enjoyed hunting and music. He was a good tenor and a member of the local Barbershop Quartet as well as a member of the church choir. He liked horses so much that he preferred a good team of them over a tractor.

On January 10, 1951, Harry Andersen entered active service at Sioux Falls. He received his basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and then returned home for a leave in early summer of 1951. After returning to duty, Pfc. Andersen was shipped overseas on July 16, 1951. Once he arrived, he was transferred to Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Private First Class Harry Dixen Andersen was reported missing in action on September 6, 1951, in North Korea. His body was never recovered, and on December 31, 1953, he was declared presumed dead. There is a memorial marker in his honor at the Rose Hill Cemetery in Viborg and at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

Pfc. Andersen was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Korean War Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal.

The memorial at Rose Hill Cemetery has a plaque in Harry’s honor. It says, “There is no Body lying here/It’s only here in Spirit/The area holds a memory/Of one who grew up in it.”

This entry was respectfully initiated by Tessa Aiken and completed by Mrs. Hansen, Spearfish Middle School, Spearfish, South Dakota, July 13, 2004. Information for this entry was provided by the SD National Guard Museum, the American Battle Monuments Commission, and an application for a SD veteran’s bonus. Memorial stone photo by Mrs. Hansen. Further information and profile approval provided by Vernon B. Andersen, brother.